



Smart Cycling includes helmets, these graduates of the local bicycle safety course learned. Pictured above in the front row, left to right, are Penrhynn Nelson, Nathan Hall, Billy Sword and Amber McGaa; behind them, left to right, are volunteer bike safety instructors Bob Ragsdale, Pat Hall and Schann Nelson.

First class of Safe Cycling program is completed

Four successful graduates of Vernonia's first Smart Cycling, bicycle safety course, stopped by the office of The INDEPENDENT for a graduation picture at the end of June.

After completing the four-class series on bike handling, traffic awareness, positioning, safe maneuvers and measures, and similar subjects, the graduates went for a ride with their instructors.

"It was nice, but a little frustrating," said instructor Bob Ragsdale of the drivers who courteously stopped to let the group of bike riders have the right-of-way.

"We've been teaching them how to handle normal situa-

tions and they just didn't happen today."

The volunteer instructors, Ragsdale, Schann Nelson and Pat Hall, will teach more classes after school starts. The program is a pilot project of the state Traffic Safety Commission.



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